Exploitation of Labour

287. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to check economic exploitation of labour in the country;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the details of the industries against which necessary action is being taken for violation of labour laws during the last one year; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect interest of labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The economic exploitation of labour in the country is checked through enactment and enforcement of a number of labour laws aimed at protecting and promoting the health, safety, welfare and social security of workers. The Central Government has enacted a number of labour legislations to protect the workers from economic exploitation. These enactments are the Payment of the Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The provisions of these enactments ensure that the workmen are paid their wages at regular intervals and without unauthorized deductions. These laws also ensure that the workers employed in the scheduled employments and in the unorganized sector are paid the wages which are not less than the minimum rates of wages fixed by the appropriate Governments. Further, the Equal Remuneration Act has been enacted to provide for payment of equal wages to female workers as paid to the male workers when employed to do same work or work of similar nature.

These enactments also provide that the aggrieved workmen can file claim applications/complaints before the prescribed authority in order to get their dues paid/settled. These Acts also provide for penalties such as fines and imprisonments for violation/non-compliance of the provisions of the Acts.

(c) The details of action taken for violation of labour laws *i.e.* under the Minimum Wages Act, the Payment of Wages Act and the Equal Remuneration Act, in respect of Central Sphere during the last one year are as under:—

Action taken	Minimum Wages Act	Payment of Wages Act	Equal Remuneration Act
No. of inspections made	15212	5426	4606
No. of irregularities detected	173285	64333	4569
No. of claim cases filed	3956	5	611
No. of claim cases decided	3445	5	276
No of prosecutions filed	5260	1321	972
No. of prosecutions decided	3256	1254	439
No. of convictions	3094	9	494

(d) The Organisation of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) is responsible for enforcement of provisions of labour laws in establishments under the Central Sphere. The Officers of the Organisation who have been declared as 'Inspectors' under these laws carry out periodic and routine inspections in establishments under Central Sphere with a view to secure compliance of provisions of the labour laws and to protect the interest of labour. As and when any violation is reported or detected by the officers of Central Industrial Relations Machinery, legal action by way of filing of claim cases prosecution etc. are initiated. The compliance of the provisions of the Acts in the State sphere is secured through the State enforcement machinery.

Labour Management Relationship

288. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalized a draft law for regulation of Labour Management relationship in industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultation with the Trade Unions and Labour leaders were held before finalizing the draft law;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;